

Connections

August 2011

New Transportation Improvement Program Cut in Half

by Sue Cox

Though the future is bleak for the state's transportation funding, a new state five-year highway construction program was approved in July by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. But the new program is only half the size of recent years – about \$600 million a year rather than the average of \$1.2 billion. There's barely enough money to take care of the existing system, and Missourians will see very few new projects that expand the system and make it safer during the next few years.

"We've known this grim situation was coming," said Kevin Keith, Missouri Department of Transportation director, "We have fallen off a cliff."

"This sharp decline in funds means the investment that has supported Missouri jobs, improved our roads and bridges, and

dollars for transportation projects. The federal government allocates funding to states using a formula that requires states to match a percentage of the money.

To cope with this funding challenge, MoDOT is focusing on delivering commitments promised Missouri citizens – keeping major highways in good condition, improving smaller state roads and keeping pace with needed bridge repairs and maintenance. Through the Bolder Five-Year Direction, the department is cutting internal costs and directing all available resources to taking care of existing roads and bridges.

"These cost savings are just a temporary fix – they do not solve our funding situation in the long term," said Keith. "There are consequences to operating with insufficient funds. It means the department will



Cathy Morrison



Shaun Schmitz

increased safety is in jeopardy," said Keith. "We will continue to honor our commitments and maintain the condition of our roads and bridges to the best of our ability for as long as we can, but without additional resources our system will eventually get worse."

Moving forward, MoDOT will reach the point where it will not have enough state revenue to match federal funding, and that will mean Missouri will lose millions of

not be able to address economic development opportunities, deliver corridor improvements or replace major bridges."

Each year, MoDOT identifies the specific transportation projects planned in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, or STIP. This provides a consistent and constant road map for Missourians to see how their transportation money is spent. The 2012-2016 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program lists

transportation projects planned by state and regional planning agencies for fiscal years 2012 through 2016 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2016).

"The STIP is our promise to the public we serve," said Transportation Planning Director Machel Watkins, whose Jefferson City office is responsible for putting together the transportation program.

Another important element of the STIP's development is the ongoing, year-round public participation process.

"Local communities have had significant influence over how their transportation dollars are spent and which projects are most important," said Watkins. "Working with local officials, community leaders, elected representatives and other Missouri citizens, the MoDOT districts have determined their regions' highest priority transportation needs and projects."

A complete list of transportation projects can be found at www.modot.org.

A Leaner Look

You'll notice some very important changes in this issue as we bring Connections in line with MoDOT's Bolder Five-Year Direction. Beginning with this issue, Connections now reflects the new configuration of seven-districts throughout the state. To fit the publication to printer specifications, there is also one less statewide page.

Other very significant things stay the same. We'll continue to focus on bringing you the most important news about MoDOT. Whether it affects one district or the entire state, you'll find it here.

Your feedback is always appreciated. Please contact Laura Holloway for suggestions or story ideas at laura.holloway@modot.mo.gov, or contact your Customer Relations representative to make suggestions for your district page.

Don't forget! The website, e-update system and social media accounts have also been updated to reflect the new boundaries. If you subscribe to or follow any of these services, be sure to check and make sure you're following the correct account.

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Valued Service

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Quite Frankly

Team MoDOT works hard everyday to serve the citizens of Missouri. Nothing illustrates this more than our most recent customer satisfaction survey results.



Despite our lack of funding and the need to hold off on major new projects right now, our rating for customer satisfaction remains at 83 percent. Ninety percent of Missourians trust MoDOT to keep its commitments.

I'm convinced it's the small ways you interact with customers each day that make a huge difference. Each of you

makes a difference when you follow up with customer questions, listen to public sentiment at project meetings and give your full attention to the best that MoDOT can offer right now. What seems like a small gesture when you're courteous to a customer goes a long way, and it shows through this survey.

We have a reputation for service that quite frankly is not always seen in state government. We're honest, open and working to do the very best we can for Missourians. We care about quality transportation and about using resources wisely.

Missourians trust MoDOT to deliver results, and that is thanks to you. Keep up the great work!

Kevin

MoDOT Hauls Out the Big Bags

by Melissa Black

In my house, when I mention big bags, it usually is in reference to my lack of sleep. At MoDOT, Big Bags take on a whole new meaning.

With the recent flooding problems across the state, MoDOT is trying a new tool to keep water off the roads and motorists safe. Big Bags are large sand bags -- really large -- that unfold like an accordion to create a 15-foot long, 3-foot high by 3-foot wide storage compartment for sand. One system of Big Bags takes the place of 500 sand bags.

They were tested for the first time in the southeast area in the spring when flooding was a problem, and now they're being used on the west side of Route 65 between Carrollton and Waverly for a two-mile stretch.

Remember playing with Legos? Well, these work much the same way. A chain of dumpster-sized bags can be attached, filled with sand and built upon to create floodwalls quickly and easily. The bags are made of tightly woven polypropylene with wooden frames screwed together. Each system weighs only 50 pounds when empty, but when



Cathy Morrison

deployed they are filled with 2,800-3,500 pounds of sand, depending on its moisture content. The bags are filled with the help of a conveyer system created during their recent use in the southeast area.

MoDOT has 480 systems available to use when needed. Check out more pictures of these Big Bags on MoDOT's Flickr site at www.flickr.com/photos/modot or watch a video of the Big Bags getting placed along Route 65 at www.youtube.com/modotvideo.



Cathy Morrison

New Senior Management Team District and Division Leadership

Below is the most current list of senior management at MoDOT. Find a list of the positions currently appointed in the 17-20 salary grade level on the Intranet at www.intranet/hr/default.htm.

Director Kevin Keith

Chief Financial Officer
Roberta Broeker

Chief Engineer Dave Nichols

Assistant Chief Engineer Don Hillis

Chief Counsel Rich Tiemeyer

Secretary to the Commission
Pam Harlan

Districts:

Northwest

District Engineer Don Wichern

Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy

Northeast

District Engineer

Paula Gough

Assistant District Engineer
Dave Silvester

Assistant District Engineer
Kevin James

Kansas City

District Engineer Dan Niec

Assistant District Engineer
Chris Redline

Assistant District Engineer
Brian Kidwell

Assistant to the District Engineer
Randy Hartman

Central

District Engineer Kirk Juranas

Assistant District Engineer
Travis Koestner

St. Louis

District Engineer

Ed Hassinger

Assistant District Engineer Tom Blair

Assistant District Engineer
Bill Schnell

Assistant to the District Engineer
Mollie LeBlanc

Southwest

District Engineer

Becky Baltz

Assistant District Engineer
Dan Salisbury

Assistant District Engineer
Andy Mueller

Assistant to the District Engineer
Scott Bachman

Southeast

District Engineer Mark Shelton

Assistant District Engineer
Matt Seiler

Assistant District Engineer
Chris Rutledge

Divisions:

Audits and Investigations Director
Bill Rogers

State Bridge Engineer
Dennis Heckman

Assistant State Bridge Engineer
Scott Stotlemeyer

State Construction and Materials Engineer Dave Ahlvers

Assistant State Construction and Materials Engineer Jay Bestgen

Customer Relations Director
Mara Campbell

State Design Engineer Kathy Harvey

Assistant State Design Engineer
Eric Schroeter

Local Program Administrator
Kenny Voss

Engineering Policy Administrator
Joe Jones

Right of Way Director Kelly Lucas

Equal Opportunity and Diversity Director Rudy Nickens

External Civil Rights Director
Lester Woods

Financial Services Director
Brenda Morris

General Services Director
Debbie Rickard

Governmental Relations Director
Jay Wunderlich

Human Resources Director
Micki Knudsen

Assistant Human Resources Director
Sharon Golden

Information Systems Director
Beth Ring

Assistant Information Systems Director Mike Miller

State Maintenance Engineer
Beth Wright

Motor Carrier Services Director
Jan Skouby

Assistant Motor Carrier Services Director Scott Marion

Multimodal Operations Director
Michelle Teel

Risk and Benefits Management Director Jeff Padgett

State Traffic and Highway Safety Engineer Eileen Rackers

Highway Safety Director
Leanna Depue

State Transportation Planning Director Machele Watkins

Show Me My Buzz

MoDOT is launching a new smart-phone application to help people make smart choices about designating a sober driver.

The “Show Me My Buzz” free smart-phone app, available in the Apple App Store and the Google Market, allows users to calculate their estimated blood alcohol concentration (BAC) based on how may drinks they have consumed, how long they have been drinking and their gender.

The app suggests that having a sober driver is the only safe option, and it will even provide the phone number of a local cab company with just a tap of the screen.

The BAC calculator is only a guide that calculates averages. Alcohol affects ev-

eryone differently. Influencing factors include food consumption, medication, health and psychological conditions. The best plan is to always designate a sober driver. A sober driver is someone who has not had anything to drink.

The app launches as law enforcement agencies across the state increase DWI enforcement. During the 2010 “You Drink & Drive, You Lose” campaign Aug. 20-Sept. 6, law enforcement state-wide made 909 DWI arrests.

Last year, 234 people were killed and 957 seriously injured in crashes involving a drunk driver.

Check your BAC before you drive or your next check-in will be at the local jail. Download the free “Show Me My Buzz” app on your smartphone.

Governance Team Oversees SharePoint Launch and Adoption

As MoDOT has moved to adopt SharePoint for collaboration, document management and electronic archives, a group of employees, from various areas of MoDOT, have been overseeing the process.

The SharePoint Governance Team consists of 14 individuals who review the policies, structure and deployment of the organizational tool. Team members meet monthly to review and vote on high level issues or policies that will affect SharePoint users and Site Administrators.

Current Team members include: Lisa A Stupps – KC, Deborah J Huffman – KC, Christina Dudenhoeffer – IS, Charles “Matt” Hiebert – CR, Matthew B McMichael - CM, Tina Thurman – MC, Dale L Heislen – CC, Kelly B Mertens – IS, Mary E Shrubbs - SE, Deborah L Kraus - FS, Melissa Kristofik – SL,

Mark Finnell – IS, Lisa Elliott – IS and Roseanna M Ridnour – DE.

If you have suggestions, concerns, input or ideas for the deployment and use of SharePoint, please contact one of the SharePoint Governance Team members listed above. Like SharePoint itself, the Governance Team is a collaborative tool. No two divisions or districts are completely alike, and each is encouraged to have input into the adoption of this powerful business tool.

For additional information, please visit the SharePoint Governance Team site at <http://sharepoint/help/governance/Pages/default.aspx>. Here you can access a list of Governance Team members (and their contact information), the SharePoint Governance Decision Matrix (SharePoint policy) and discussion board, the Team calendar, a list of announcements as well as the team meeting minutes.

MoDOT Sees Spike in Passengers Using Amtrak Missouri River Runner

Ridership for Amtrak Missouri River Runner trains was up by 16 percent for the fiscal year ending June 30. There were 190,628 passengers in FY 2011 compared to 164,817 in FY 2010.



Cathy Morrison

"More and more customers are relying on Amtrak to take them to their destinations. After all, it's reliable, economical and an environmentally cleaner way to travel," said Rod Massman, Missouri Department of Transportation rail administrator. "Whether you are a student, a businessman or woman or a family, Amtrak is a convenient way to get from point A to point B."

A constant fluctuation of higher gas prices is one reason more people are choosing the train. Service is another. Missouri River Runner trains reported

an 89 percent on-time performance rate on average for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The Missouri service has also been noted for its overall customer satisfaction. In May, it received a 97 percent satisfaction rate, the second best among state supported and other short distance corridors.

Amtrak trains have been supported by the state financially since 1979. Growth in ridership increases ticket revenues and helps keep the state's costs for the service down.



Cathy Morrison

Several imminent projects will continue to improve the state's passenger rail service. Missouri has received \$75 million to date from the Federal Railroad Administration to remove additional bottlenecks along the corridor, conduct a comprehensive state rail plan, purchase new passenger rail equipment and improve access to the St. Louis Gateway Station. Plus, many communities along the St. Louis - Kansas City corridor continue their support of the service. Sedalia recently completed station renovations and Hermann expects to begin construction on a new station in the fall.

August Service Anniversaries

30 Years		Ronda A. Luck	CO
Larry R. Taylor	CD	Ivan W. Schmidt	CO
Kenneth J. Luhmann	SL		
25 Years		Diania D. Sanders	NW
Gary L. Rush	NW	John W. Resa	NE
Kenneth L. Terry	CD	Glendon P. Burris	CD
Michael A. Mellenbruch	SW	Gary M. Stevens	SW
Susan R. Koppelman	CD	James D. Henson	SE
Dale S. Brandt	CO	Micheal P. Arnold	SE
Steve R. Collins	CO	Mehdi Raoof	CO
Charles E. Gohring	CO	Chris M. Noblett	CO
20 Years		Jennifer L. Finch	NW
James R. Lohsandt	KC	Andrew I. Huntsman	NE
Kevin R. Branch	CD	Monica Bond	KC
15 Years		Scott W. Campbell	CD
Russel J. O'Daniell	NW	Jonathon M. Townsend	SL
Kimberly S. Barnett	NE	Joshua A. Kaiser	SL
Andrea L. Bland	NE	Norman P. Gentry	SL
Kevin R. Pitts	KC	Adam G. Jundt	SL
Clarence H. Overholtzer	KC	Michael G. Rogers	SL
Paul C. Boenisch	KC	Austin J. Weaver	SW
Tina M. White	SL	Dustin W. Webb	SW
Todd N. Tyler	SW	Chad S. Embrey	SW
Andy R. Boyd	SE	Shelly L. Cooper	SE
Arlis D. Humphrey	CD	Laurie A. Mullaney	SE
		Christopher J. Ordonia	SE

Darren Kincy	SE	Chekesha A. Nelson	CO
Andrew C. Hanks	CO	John C. Wiesenmeyer	CO

June Retirements			In Memoriam		
Name	Location	Years of Service	Active		
Willis Fee	NE	38	James Harcourt	CO	June 5
James Romaker	NE	13	Joe Vollmer	CD	June 19
Timothy Fuqua	NE	33	Donald Noles	SE	June 25
William Polen	KC	30	Retirees	Retired from:	
Teresa McGuff	KC	25	Joe Bulen	D2	June 1
Thomas Skinner	KC	13	Betty Lynes	CO	June 4
Harry Scurlock	CD	13	Ralph Paul	D7	June 7
Barry Perkins	SL	6	Donald Long	D5	June 7
Russell Graham	SL	29	Stewart Love	D4	June 10
Twyla Harper	SW	15	Paul Simino	D6	June 16
Dan Probert	SW	28	Charles Swearingen	D3	June 20
Archie Daily	SW	17	Louie Turnbough	D6	June 21
Gary Moody	SW	19	Thomas Ward	D10	June 21
Steven Boatwright	SE	28	Gene Walbridge	D7	June 21
Helen Grindstaff	SE	20	David Roberts	D3	June 23
Linda Webb	CO	27	Ferne Bret	CO	June 24
Orland Crandall	CO	30	George Olson	D2	June 25
Debra Ponder	CO	34	Coy Runion	D9	June 26
			Roy Elliott	D6	June 27
			Beauford Zumwalt	D7	June 28

Central Office

It's A Show Me Thing! at This Year's Missouri State Fair

by Melissa Black

Visitors heading to the annual Missouri State Fair in Sedalia this year Aug. 11-21 will find out "It's A Show Me Thing!" Since 1901, the fair has been the premier place to be entertained with some of the best live entertainment, prize-winning livestock and of course all the fried food you can eat. MoDOT is gearing up to show visitors a few new surprises as well in the exhibit hall, and welcomes everyone to the ever-popular, lush and shady Highway Gardens.

"The Missouri State Fair is still a great way for us to connect face-to-face with thousands of our customers," says Don

Hillis, assistant chief engineer. "It's a unique opportunity to educate folks on a variety of things our department does for Missouri drivers."

MoDOT Day will be held on Friday, Aug. 12, with special activities including a rare appearance by Barrel Bob who will be available to answer questions, trash can painting, snacks and puppet shows. MoDOT will stress the importance of highway safety topics like buckling up, distracted driving and driving sober, as well as litter prevention. An Adopt-A-Highway table will

be set-up for those interested in helping clean up roadsides.

The Transportation Exposition Center will be fully loaded with interactive displays on the department's programs and activities featuring games, contests and giveaways. Kids and adults can participate in a transportation scavenger hunt and enter to win an iPad, or try to win concert event tickets by participating in the secret word contest on Facebook. Fairgoers won't want to miss playing driving games on the computers in the expo center, or trying out the Convincer in the Gardens. Other displays will stress the importance of not texting and driving, buckling up, a bridge beam display, and a couple of brand new surprises.

Other fair highlights include comedians, a magic show, a farmers market, a rodeo, rides on the midway, and concerts by entertainers like Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan and Lynyrd Skynyrd and much more. Admission to the State Fair varies by day and time.

Normal daily admission is \$8. Visit mostatefair.com to find out more.



Youth Transportation Conference

MoDOT sponsors an annual Youth Transportation Conference each summer. Thirty students are selected from across the state to attend this conference in Jefferson City. The conference exposes students from across Missouri to the numerous career opportunities in the field of transportation and is packed with fun and exciting academic, career development and social activities.

Students apply math, science, and computer concepts learned in school to transportation-related problems. The academic curriculum includes sessions on math modeling, applied physics, magnetic levitation, public administration, and safety. Other activities include field trips, office/site tours, and speakers from various divisions within MoDOT and related organizations.

One activity gave students the chance to learn about and tour a solar car.



Students tried their hand at building bridges.



New Multimodal Division Director Named

Michelle Teel is the new head of MoDOT's Multimodal Division. Teel has worked for MoDOT for more than 15 years, most recently as the Local Programs Administrator for the Design Division and the assistant director of the Motor Carrier Services Division.

Teel will oversee state and federal programs that fund and support aviation, railroads, transit, waterways and freight development.

"I am excited to tackle this new position and look forward to advancing the programs and initiatives associated with the state's other transportation modes," Teel said.

Teel has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's degree in business administration from William Woods University in Fulton. She is a licensed professional engineer and is also certified as a professional traffic



Michelle Teel

operations engineer. She replaces Brian Weiler, who recently was named the director of aviation for the Springfield-Branson National Airport.

"Michelle has made tremendous contributions to the department," said Modot's Chief Engineer Dave Nichols. "She's proven her leadership ability and I'm confident she will produce great results."



Matthew McMichael (left) and Karmen Stockman with Construction and Materials helped clean up along Route 94 on a hot July day.

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Northwest District

Last Month's Event

by M. Elaine Justus

June 11-13 were the dates of this year's Airshow and Fly-In at Cameron, Mo. Each year, this event gets larger and larger as they add aerobatic performers, wing walkers, war birds and classic automobiles to a jam packed schedule of events. Coordinating something as big and varied as an event such as this requires excellent communications. Once again, MoDOT's two state-



Stephen M. Lawlor

MoDOT equipment and personnel were on hand to make sure everyone communicated effectively.



Provided

Aerobatic performances dazzled the spectators at the Annual Air Show and Fly-In at the Cameron Municipal Airport.

of-the-art communications vehicles (MERO and MEDOC) traveled all the way from Jefferson City to make certain all the various communication devices of emergency providers, law enforcement and pilots functioned seamlessly. It was a beautiful day and a perfect, trouble-free airshow thanks to the help of MoDOT.

Everything else in the Northwest District centered around the water being released on the Missouri River by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Although not an "act of nature," the effects of the flooding are just as devastating. Crops are ruined, farmlands covered in silt, homes underwater and families displaced. As we go to press, the flooding extends from north of Council Bluffs, Iowa through Missouri into Platte County, and on into Carroll and Chariton counties. The National Guard, the Red Cross, law enforcement and emergency providers have joined MoDOT in what has become an hour-by-hour assault by the Missouri River.

All but one of the major river crossings in the Northwest District are currently inaccessible, and the last remaining bridge across the Missouri, on U.S. 36 could close anytime.

In Holt County, alone, we have documented over 120,000 acres, 50 roads and 800 homes as being affected.



Cathy Morrison

Construction on the new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge is completely halted since U.S. 59 is inundated. No river crossing is possible.



Cathy Morrison

The damage to homes, farms and businesses cannot be calculated yet. Besides the initial damage caused by flood waters, the long-term effects of relocation, loss of work and prolonged flooding are factors that remain to be seen.



Cathy Morrison

Construction of the new Missouri River bridge at Rulo, Neb., is also on hold. U.S. 159 continues to be flooded on the Missouri side, which makes access impossible. The Brownville Bridge is also inaccessible due to the flooding of U.S. 136. The only remaining Missouri river crossing at this time is the Pony Express bridge on U.S. 36. It, too, is at risk.



Jeffery Kroner

More than 3,000 large sandbags were used to keep U.S. 65 open to traffic.

U.S. 65 in Carroll County began to experience water on the roadway during the first week in July. Because the highway carries 3,500 cars a day, and because the only viable detour was almost 50 miles around, the decision was made to try and sandbag the shoulders to keep the highway open as long as possible. Eight MoDOT employees

from the Kansas City district brought sandbags and filling machines. They joined 20+ employees from Carrollton, Bosworth, Keytesville, Chillicothe, Brookfield, Moberly, New Cambria, Atlanta, and Macon. Together, they worked all night to place over 3,000 big bags of sand along a two-mile long section of U.S. 65.

5



Becky Wilson

(Left to right) Larry Ross of L.G. Barcus and Sons Contractors, Presiding Commissioner C.R. "Bud" Motsinger, Commissioner Donnie Cox, Area Engineer Tonya Lohman, and Regional Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Dorrel joined forces on July 11th to cut the ribbon on the Route A bridge over Shoal Creek in Caldwell County.



Austin Hibler

(Left to right) Senior Construction Inspector Becky Wilson, Area Engineer Tonya Lohman, Commissioner Donnie Cox, Presiding Commissioner C.R. "Bud" Motsinger, and Regional Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Dorrel cut the ribbon on July 11th for the Route U bridge over Otter Creek. It is the latest Safe & Sound bridge to be completed in Caldwell County.

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Northeast District

A Trooper and A Sheriff Remembered

It's been more than 40 years since highway patrolman, Trooper William "Bob" Brandt was killed in the line of duty, yet he is now memorialized with the Trooper William Brandt Memorial Highway on a section of U.S. 36 west of Macon. Representative Tom Shively introduced the legislative bill.

During the ceremony various members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, his wife and sister spoke about Bob, sharing several anecdotes and a poem written a few years ago by a fellow trooper. It was evident by those speaking that Trooper Brandt was a hero, and although it had been many years since his passing, he has not been forgotten.

Former Ralls County Sheriff Ben J. Berghager was also honored with the renaming of U.S. 61 through Ralls County, from Hannibal to just north of Frankford. The event was led by Sheriff Berghager's daughter, Kim, and included tribute songs by the well-known band Well Hungarians, a prayer, comments from the family, and the ceremonial unveiling of the sign. Representative Lindell Shumake sponsored the legislation and offered kind words about the former sheriff to the audience.

More than 60 people attended the event, and pictures can be found on the Northeast District web site.



The Trooper William "Bob" Brandt Memorial Highway sign is unveiled during a ceremony for the officer who was killed in the line of duty in 1970.



Family members of former Ralls County Sheriff Ben J. Berghager unveil the memorial sign during the ceremony along U.S. 61 south of Hannibal.

No "Puzzling" Secret to Success on Bridge

Participants of the first Safe & Sound Bridge completed this year in Audrain County, removed the ceremonial "puzzle" piece from the Safe & Sound banner and cut the ribbon to signify the completion of the U.S. 54 bridge over the Cuivre River south of Laddonia last month.

The road was closed for just 26 days while the contractor and MoDOT replaced it with a new one. "The contractor's foreman and the MoDOT inspector should be commended for working effectively and smart, which is why the bridge was able to open so quickly," said Preston Kramer, who is the MoDOT field engineer for the Safe

& Sound bridge program in northeast Missouri. Kramer confirms that this is the largest bridge to be completed in the shortest amount of time, so far, on the Safe & Sound Program.

Those attending included representatives from U.S. Sen. Blunt and McCaskill's offices, Congressman Luetkemeyer's office, Sen. Brian Munzlinger, Rep. John Cauthorn, the City of Mexico, Schneider Construction, KTU Contractors, and MoDOT representatives.

Photos of the old and new bridge, as well as details about the project, are online at modot.org/northeast under the Safe & Sound Bridge icon.



Cutting the ribbon, MoDOT Inspector Brandi Baldwin and Schneider Construction Foreman Danny Proctor were recognized for their efforts to work effectively and smart to get the bridge open in just 26 days.

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Around the District...



Buckles the Bear and the award-winning Macon County KISS Rock Stars joined forces at the Atlanta Homecoming to promote seat belt and highway safety. The KISS Rock Stars remind parents to KISS - Kids in Safety Seat - every trip, every time. MoDOT's Diane Nanneman is pictured left of Buckles.



Mother Nature has NOT been good to MoDOT! Pictured left is the Kirksville maintenance building after one of the many severe storms. The rubberized roofing and part of the sheeting was removed, causing water damage to the office and break room areas. The top of the salt dome was also lost in the storm. Pictured right is what's left of the Monroe City salt dome. The most recent "casualty" was the top of a tree in the back yard of the district office in Hannibal.



Area Engineer Jennifer Hinson explains the replacement of the North River Bridge west of Palmyra to several public meeting attendees. MoDOT will close Route 168 next year to replace the old truss bridge.

Kansas City District

One Team Stands Strong

by Kerri Lewis

With flood waters rising across the state, more and more roads are in jeopardy of closing. When one of Carroll County's major roads in the Northwest District faced that possibility, One Team MoDOT, including many personnel from the Kansas City District responded.

On July 10, Route 65 faced complete closure as flood waters soaked the area. Thanks to efforts from Kansas City, Northeast and Northwest Districts, this major road used by thousands of motorists remains open today.

Kansas City sent employees, equipment and material to combat rising waters. When it was apparent that more hands were needed, these employees, despite scorching temperatures, stepped up and helped in the sandbagging effort. 3,000 of the large sandbags were filled and when put in place, spanned 9,000 feet. All work was complete and sand bags placed within 26 hours.



To the right, KC Regional Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Rose works the sandbagging machine that fills the bags to help combat the rising flood waters along Route 65 in Carroll County.

Kansas City District's Holmes Park Celebrates

July 12 proved to be a hot day but the 110 heat index did not stop these maintenance crew workers from celebrating. With several homemade cakes provided by Jerome Burgett, Intermediate Maintenance Worker, and cold ice cream to top them off, 16 workers from Holmes Park and South Consolidated Resource Center received recognition for performing as the top maintenance facility in the Kansas City District during the No More Trash! Bash.

The Holmes Park/SCSC group collected more than 3,900 of the 10,689

bags of trash collected district wide. In fact, all of the maintenance facilities did an outstanding job and are applauded. For the second year in a row, the KC District maintenance workers collected more than 10,500 bags of trash during the bash. The 2011 No More Trash! Bash was a huge success with nearly 160,000 bags of litter collected statewide.



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Central District

Central District Welcomes New District Engineers

The Central Missouri District is pleased to welcome the appointment of a new district engineer and assistant district engineer to our region.

District Engineer Kirk Juranas has worked for MoDOT for almost 27 years. Before coming to mid-Missouri, he worked as district engineer in the former Springfield district and the Northeast District in Hannibal.

Juranas has held engineering positions around the state, including assistant district engineer in Kansas City and the value engineering administrator within the Design Division at Central Office.

When he's not at work, Juranas enjoys hunting and fishing with his family and tinkers with home improvement projects.

Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner began his career at MoDOT as a construction inspector at the Camdent Project Office. He then moved to positions at Central Office, and was most recently in the Construction and Materials Division as the assistant state construction and materials engineer. He has worked for MoDOT for 16 years.

Koestner spends his free time playing golf and working on his farm.



Holly Dentner

District Engineer Kirk Juranas and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner have been traveling the district, meeting with employees in July and August.

National Safety Award Goes to District Safety Manager

by Holly Dentner

If there's a serious vehicle crash or incident on a state roadway in the Central Missouri District, it's a guarantee that Chris Engelbrecht knows about it and is on the scene soon after it happens.

Engelbrecht is the district's safety and health manager, and incident response is just one of many job duties he has. He is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, fielding calls from local law enforcement whenever needed.

His dedication and capabilities have now earned him recognition from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, who nominated him for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "People Saving People" award.

"Chris has earned this recognition by the law enforcement community for his overwhelming support and outstanding reputation," said Lt. Larry Plunkett, Missouri Highway Patrol, Troop F. "He is consistent, reliable, and an invaluable resource to officers in the area. We consider him part of our team."

As the go-to person at MoDOT for emergency response, Engelbrecht not only helps law enforcement, but is a critical resource for MoDOT employees as well. He makes sure everyone involved can respond to incidents and manage them as safely as possible.

"When it comes to incident response, Chris is the most dedicated employee for MoDOT," said Maintenance

Superintendent Mike Belt. "His fantastic attitude about service makes a real difference to Missouri drivers, and the maintenance employees look to him when we have safety-related questions."

Engelbrecht accepted his award at the annual Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council conference on July 14, 2011.



Holly Dentner

Chris Engelbrecht was nominated for the "People Saving People" award by the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Jefferson City Interchange Project Begins



Cathy Morrison

Approximately 60 people endured the very hot weather to celebrate the beginning of construction on a new diamond interchange on Route 179 in Cole County. The ceremony took place on a roadside bluff overlooking the construction site.



Cathy Morrison

The new Route 179 interchange, located between Route C and Edgewood Drive in Jefferson City, will provide access to a new St. Mary's Health Center development. The project is a joint effort of MoDOT, the City of Jefferson, and Cole County.

The \$7.4 million project will take about one year to complete. Traffic on Route 179 will be detoured for about three months during the early stages of construction. This will allow for excavation work to take place for a new roadway, Mission Drive, that will run underneath Route 179.



Holly Dentner

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St. Louis District

A New Daniel Boone Bridge Is In the Near Future

by Andrew Gates

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved funding for a new Daniel Boone Bridge across the Missouri River between St. Louis and St Charles counties during their monthly meeting on July 13.

The commission approved \$120 million for the new bridge as part of the 2012-

time-frame. MoDOT will award the contract in the next year and construction should begin in 2013.

The location for the new bridge, as well as the traffic impacts for construction, will be determined as part of the design-build contract. Under the currently approved Environmental Im-



The existing Daniel Boone Bridge over the Missouri River connects St. Louis and St. Charles counties.

2017 State Transportation Improvement Plan.

The new bridge will be constructed using the design-build contracting process, similar to the I-64 project in St. Louis. Through this process, design and construction will be completed by the same contractor on an accelerated

pact Statement, though, the preferred alternative is to construct a new bridge near the existing eastbound bridge. Under that alternative, the new bridge would carry eastbound traffic and a protected bike-pedestrian lane between the Chesterfield and Katy trails.

Support Fallen Workers With Discount Tickets to St. Louis Cardinals Games

For the third year, the St. Louis Cardinals organization is supporting MoDOT's Fallen Workers fund to honor the lives of MoDOT employees killed in the line of duty.

MoDOT employees throughout the state can purchase tickets to three St. Louis Cardinals games during the 2011 season. The St. Louis Cardinals is donating \$10 from each ticket that MoDOT employees purchase to support our fallen workers.

In 2010, there were a total of 188 tickets sold for all four games that contributed \$1,880 to the Fallen Workers Memorial. Thanks for all MoDOT employees and retirees' support!

Check out the following website link to purchase these tickets:

www.carinals.commoot

This link will only be live until one week before each game. You can only purchase these tickets online.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets for these game, please select them at your earliest convenience because there are a limited number of seats available.

Please contact Kara Price, District 6 Community Relations, at 314-453-1810 or Kara.Price@modot.mo.gov if you have questions or need additional information.

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Changing I-270 Advisory Speeds Caution Motorists of Slowed Traffic

by Linda Wilson



St. Louis District Signing changes the I-270 variable speed limit signs to be advisory speeds.

Interstate 270/255 is one of the most congested roads in St. Louis. In an effort to improve traffic flow and warn motorists of slowed traffic, variable advisory speeds began posting today. The digital speed signs show an advisory speed varying between 55 mph to 10 mph. In addition, the standard black on white signs with the posted enforceable speed limit on I-270 are 60 mph, except in work zones.

“The digital speed signs display flashing advisory speeds whenever traffic ahead is slowed to between 55 mph and 10 mph,” said MoDOT Assistant District Engineer Tom Blair. “The purpose is to advise drivers of congestion ahead. You need to slow down, pay attention and prepare to reduce speed.”

When average speeds on I-270 are at the posted speed limit of 60 mph, the digital boards are blank. As conditions change, the I-270 variable advisory speeds adjust showing the advised speed in increments of 5 mph starting at 55 down to 10 mph depending on the

congestion on the road. Advisory speed limits are not enforceable. MoDOT's message signs also include information regarding the congestion or lane closures ahead and increased travel times.

“We are advising drivers of how fast or slow their vehicle should be moving in order to safely get to their destination, in the shortest amount of time,” said Blair. “The advisory speed signs are similar to the black on yellow advisory speed signs posted on curves and ramps. It is the suggested speed to safely travel that stretch of road.”

Variable advisory speeds are designed to pace the traffic leading up to recurring rush hour congestion or from congestion caused by closed lanes due to a crash or work zone. If drivers ignore the speeds and hurry to the point of the congestion, it actually creates more congestion and is slower to get through. If drivers obey the advisory speeds, traffic will get through the congested area more quickly.

“MoDOT's Gateway Guide traffic system of 300 cameras and 400 speed sensors knows when and where traffic problems happen. The message signs and advisory speeds are designed to warn you so you can slow down and prepare for congestion and potential lane reductions,” Blair said.

A video explaining the changes and the theory behind variable advisory speeds is available at www.youtube.com/modotstl.



The 70 digital advisory speed signs on I-270 inform motorists of slower speeds ahead. The signs flash from 55 mph to 10 mph.

Southwest District

New Southwest District Management Team

by Bob Edwards, Lori Marble and Wendy Brunner-Lewis

What keeps Becky Baltz going is people working together to make MoDOT successful.

"It's a matter of bringing a lot of great ideas together and putting them into action," Baltz said. The result can't help but be a top-notch transportation system, she said.

In the same vein, she values MoDOT's family atmosphere.

"It's absolutely the best part of our culture," she said. "We help each other professionally and personally. Even through downsizing, we don't want to lose that."

Know, however, that if you have an issue, Baltz is glad to talk with you about it, but she wants to hear more than complaining. Be positive and pro-active.

"I am willing to discuss problems. You should also bring solutions," she said. "I



Baltz expect the same thing of myself." She added: "One of the biggest challenges we face in the 'Bolder' MoDOT is changing processes." With larger districts, fewer employees and uncertain finances, she said, "We can't move forward with business as usual."

But she is optimistic. "We'll figure it out and we'll work through it. We'll come out of it stronger."

Speaking at employee meetings, Baltz has acknowledged the 'Bolder' plan's very personal impact.

"I know it's a tough time. Do your best to stay focused on your work. There's a lot to be done. But mostly I want us to stay safe out there."

Becky Baltz, District Engineer

Hometown: Brumley

Education: Missouri University of Science and Technology, BS Civil Engineering and BS Engineering Management

Career: All with MoDOT

- District 6/St. Louis, 1984-88: designer, traffic studies engineer
- District 8/Springfield, 1988-2006:

traffic studies engineer, district liaison engineer in Design, transportation planning coordinator, transportation planning manager, assistant district engineer

- District 7/Joplin (Southwest), 2006-2011: district engineer
- New Southwest District, starting June 2011: district engineer

Dan Salisbury, Assistant District Engineer

Hometown: Maysville

Education: Missouri University of Science and Technology, BS Civil Engineering

Career: All with MoDOT

- District 1/St. Joseph, 1975-1976: design technician, construction technician
- Central Office/Jefferson City, 1977-1989: structural designer, senior structural designer, structural plans reviewer, structural design group leader
- District 1/St. Joseph, 1989-1991: district chief designer
- District 5/Jefferson City, 1991: district design engineer
- Central Office/Jefferson City, 1992-1996: structural services engineer
- District 7/Joplin, 1996-2011: assistant district engineer
- New Southwest District, starting June 2011: assistant district engineer/program delivery



Management Approach: "I focus on delivering projects and plans on time and under budget. I constantly strive to look for practical solutions to problems. I've always believed if we work well as a team, we can achieve great results, even more so during this time."

Scott Bachman, Assistant to the District Engineer

Hometown: St. Joseph

Education: Missouri Western State University, BS History/Education; Northwest Missouri State University, MS Education; Kansas State University, MS Regional/Community Planning

Career:

- High school social studies teacher in St. Joseph, Savannah and Clinton 1989-1995
- MoDOT District 7/Joplin, 1997-2011: transportation planner, intermediate transportation planner, senior transportation planner, trans-



Bob Edwards

SW at Work

1. Sealing Christian-Stone County Route V near Spokane is a crew from Ozark Maintenance, from left, Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Fleming and Crew Leaders Garland Dewitt and Dewayne Coffey.



Lori Marble

2. Joplin Land Surveyor Rick Black helps move equipment and supplies from the former District 7 main office to other buildings on the complex as part of MoDOT's downsizing. MoDOT is allowing the Joplin School District, which lost several facilities in the May 22 tornado, to use the one-time district office. Employees also were shifted to offices in Carthage and Neosho.

3. Mowing along Route 7 in Warsaw is Warsaw Senior Maintenance Worker Kent Shull, with Senior Maintenance Worker Jimmy Wischmeier in the follow truck.



Bob Edwards

Andy Mueller, Assistant District Engineer

Hometown: Bertrand

Education: Missouri University of Science and Technology, BS Civil Engineering

Career:

- Burns and McDonnell, Kansas City, 1991
- MoDOT District 10/Sikeston, 1991-1996, construction inspector
- District 3/Hannibal, 1996-1997,



Mexico resident engineer

- District 7/Joplin, 1997-1999, bridge engineer
- District 8/Springfield, 1999-2009, Branson area engineer, district construction/

materials engineer, assistant district engineer/program delivery

- Central Office, 2009-2011, LPA administrator
- New Southwest District, starting June 2011, assistant district engineer/operations

Management Approach: "In our business, the easiest course of action for the work unit or the project is not necessarily the best course of action for the organization or the transportation system. I always have a watchful eye out for the next aspiring leaders at MoDOT who understand and embrace this concept. Our future success depends on them."



portation planning coordinator, district planning manager

Management Approach: "I recognize that MoDOT's funding situation makes it necessary to redefine the department ... and still be able to provide a quality transportation system. This will require all of us to consider different ways to approach what we do."

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Southeast District

Bolder Five-Year Direction Approval Cites Larger District, New Leadership

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the Bolder Five-Year Direction on June 8, which increased the size of the Southeast District by 11 counties and named Mark Shelton the district engineer

over the 25-county region. Matt Seiler and Tom Stehn were named assistant district engineers. Stehn has since accepted a position as the city administrator for the City of West Plains, and Chris Rutledge has been named as the assistant district engineer.

Shelton has served as district engineer in the Southeast District since 2005. He has worked for MoDOT for almost 26 years, serving as the assistant state construction and materials engineer prior to becoming the district engineer for the Southeast District. Shelton has also worked in Materials for the Central District, St. Louis District and Central Office, operations engineer in Joplin, and field materials director for Central Office. Shelton earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla.

"I am excited about this new direction and look forward to working with the additional counties in the Southeast District, as well as the communities we serve," said Shelton.

Seiler joins the new Southeast District as one of the assistant district engineers. Seiler began his career for MoDOT in construction in Willow Springs. From there, he served as the district traf-



SE Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler discusses moving forward with the Bolder Five-Year Direction and answers questions from employees.

fic engineer in Springfield and was promoted to assistant district engineer. He most recently served as the assistant district engineer in the Southwest District. Seiler earned his civil engineering degree from the University of Missouri-Rolla.

"My focus will be to keep the transportation system in good condition despite challenging transportation funding. I will continue to serve Missourians by finding practical solutions to meet our transportation needs," said Seiler.

Rutledge has worked at MoDOT since 1990, beginning his career as a summer intern. Throughout his career, he has worked in design, planning, project management and maintenance. Rutledge graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and received an MBA from Southwest Baptist University in 2007.

Headquartered in Sikeston, MoDOT's Southeast District serves Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Douglas, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Shannon, Stoddard, Texas, Wayne and Wright counties.

Tom Stehn Retires

Sept. 1 will mark the end of a chapter for Southeast Assistant District Engineer Tom Stehn. He will be retiring with MoDOT and taking a new position as City Administrator for the City of West Plains. Stehn served as the South Central District Engineer for 15 years, and has worked for MoDOT for 28 years.

Stehn joined MoDOT in 1983 after graduating from the University of Missouri-Rolla with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He has held a variety of positions with MoDOT including structural designer, highway design reviewer, estimating and reviewing engineer, district highway design engineer, district chief designer, district design engineer and field liaison engineer.

He is well respected by his staff and the community at large.

"Tom has put his heart and soul in his work with MoDOT, and for that I admire him. I wish him all the luck and happiness he deserves in his new adventure. The City of West Plains is fortunate to be getting what MoDOT had," said Support Services Manager Roxy Baldrige.

Assistant District Engineer Chris Rutledge also admires the work Stehn has done.

"Tom has worked hard to develop an open, high-trust work culture that has enabled the district to work across departmental boundaries. This work has led to a much collaborative effort,



Stehn solicits donations to the South Central Crossroads Fund.

progressive processes and high-yield results," said Rutledge. "Plus we know he is a committed person if he insists on being such a die-hard Minnesota Vikings fan despite the team's dismal decisions in recent history."

Stehn said he will miss his colleagues, but is looking forward to this new phase of his career.

"What makes an organization great is its people," said Stehn. "MoDOT has been great to my family and me, and I have enjoyed my time here immensely. I want to thank everyone for their support, guidance, encouragement and friendship over the years."

Stehn and his wife, Arleen, have four children and live in West Plains.



Stehn watches as Director Kevin Keith discusses the opening of the Route 60/63 interchange with County Collector Larry Spence.

Stay Connected to the Southeast District via Social Media



A great way to interact with the 25-county Southeast region is through face-

book, twitter and YouTube. Information about upcoming work zones, project updates and other transportation-related

news is available on these sites. To learn more, please visit: www.modot.org/southeast.

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Connections

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Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



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"It Was a Spectacular Night" Bond Bridge, Fireworks Light up Kansas City's Skyline

by Jennifer Benefield

MoDOT's new, Christopher S. Bond Bridge over the Missouri River lit up Kansas City's night sky under a canopy of fireworks July 3, 2011. For the thousands of festival goers gathered in Richard L. Berkley Riverfront Park to celebrate Independence Day, it was the first glimpse at the bridge's display of colorful lights.

"It was a spectacular night," said kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "And, MoDOT's way of thanking the people of Kansas City for enduring a three-year road project in the heart of our city."

The Christopher S. Bond Bridge features a unique lighting system located along the outer edges of structure's main support beams. A series of 106 interconnected color-changing panels can display thousands of colors in a variety of patterns.

Sunday's event featured a patriotic package of red, white and blue lights.



Cathy Morrison

MoDOT's Bond Bridge and fireworks light up Kansas City's night sky July 3, 2011. Thousands of festival-goers gathered in Richard L. Berkley Park to celebrate Independence Day and get the first look at the bridge's display of colorful lights.



Allison Campbell

Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec (right), kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell (center), and Paseo Corridor Constructors joint-venture contractor team sponsor Tom Kellerman (left) kick off the inaugural lighting of the Christopher S. Bond Bridge before a KCRiverFest crowd of thousands on July 3, 2011.

"Nine lighting packages were created with community input to mark Kansas City's changing seasons, holidays and regional events," said Kidwell. "People can re-experience the bridge in a different way each time we turn on a new show."

The \$245 million kcICON project reconstructed 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 from just north of Route 210/Armour Road in North Kansas City into the northeast corner of the downtown Kan-

sas City, Mo. freeway loop. MoDOT and its contractor, Paseo Corridor Constructors, opened all ramps and lanes of Interstate 29/35 in December 2010, six months ahead of schedule and on budget. Additional information is available on the project's website at www.kcicon.com or on Facebook "kcICON Project."